

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Lottie Moon century total could top \$1 billion in '88

By Erich Bridges

National celebrities don't promote it. Rock stars don't hold concerts to raise money for it. There are no around-the-clock telethons to attract donations to it.

But quietly, reliably — and for the 101st year — the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will produce more money for foreign missions in 1988 than high-profile, high-pressure appeals raise for other causes. All of it — 100 percent — will be spent overseas in missions.

Why? Because millions of Southern Baptists still believe world missions is God's top priority. Because they take inspiration from Lottie Moon, a missionary who gave everything she had, including her life, to win the lost to Christ. And because they're still willing to put up the money to back their convictions.

Since 1988, Southern Baptists have given \$924,870,082.90 to foreign missions through the special Christmas offering now named for the missionary who helped start it. If they meet this year's goal of \$84 million, the total will top \$1 billion.

The Lottie Moon Offering, says Winston Crawley, recently retired vice president for planning for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, is "the largest offering given at any one time by any group of Christian people for any single purpose."

That's quite a record of achievement for an offering that began a century ago with a desperate plea for \$2,000. Lottie Moon had been laboring in north China for 11 years without a furlough, and was hovering close to physical collapse. Well-known and respected among Southern Baptists back home, Moon challenged Baptist women to organize for missions and appealed for reinforcements.

Annie Armstrong and other leaders of Woman's Missionary Union, just formed that year, took seriously her cry for help. "With a daring investment of \$72.82, Annie Armstrong printed envelopes and circulars for the societies to use in taking the offering," writes Catherine Allen in "A Century to Celebrate," the new history of WMU. "A goal of \$2,000 was set so that two women could be sent to Lottie Moon's aid."

The goal was surpassed: more than \$3,300 sent three additional women missionaries to China, and the foreign missions offering was on the way to being an annual Christmas event.

Finally allowed a furlough at home, Moon personally appeared at the 1892 WMU meeting and caused a "sensation," according to Allen. She also approved the idea of the offering being used for extending missions work in

Japan. That year WMU adopted the idea of a week of prayer related to the Christmas offering — the first annual activity to appear on the SBC calendar.

In 1918 Annie Armstrong proposed that the offering — still widely known as "the Christmas Offering for China" — be named for Lottie Moon, who had died of exhaustion and malnutrition six years earlier. The name change was a turning point. The offering's direct association with Moon's

declared: "This offering is deep-rooted in the hearts of Southern Baptists. It is preceded by weeks of prayer and mission study which make profound impressions upon the churches.

"It is becoming increasingly noticeable that where the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is greatly emphasized and is widely supported, there is a corresponding sharp increase in gifts to the Cooperative Program.

"The Lottie Moon Offering is to a church in its stewardship and spiritual life what a revival meeting is to its work of evangelism. We have by no means come to the maximum significance of this great offering in the life of Southern Baptists."

In 1961, the offering surpassed the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget, as the largest single source of funding for foreign missions. In recent years it has regularly provided about half of the Foreign Mission Board's total budget. Along with the Cooperative Program, it is the financial foundation undergirding the work of almost 3,900 Southern Baptist missionaries working in 113 countries.

Moreover, whereas Lottie Moon gifts once were devoted largely to new mission projects and equipment, they now pay an increasing share of basic missionary living expenses on the field. Without Lottie, the missionaries would have to come home.

Today the Lottie Moon Offering faces a new challenge. Southern Baptists have adopted the Bold Mission Thrust goal of doubling their missions force and telling every person on earth about Christ by the end of this century. Yet, the foreign missions offering goal has not been met since 1981.

Serious shortfalls led the Woman's Missionary Union to "freeze" the 1987 goal at \$75 million — the same as the previous year's target. But contributions still fell more than \$5 million short of the goal. Meanwhile, the cost continues to climb of funding a growing missions force with shrinking dollars.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has been forced to apply a 12 percent across-the-board cut in world missions operating funds for 1989, though he hopes missionary support and salaries will not be affected.

"Our financial projections are very serious," Parks said. "We've never made that heavy a cut since the Depression years. And with the continued growth in mission opportunities, we consider it tragic that we don't have the funds to do these things.

Erich Bridges writes for FMB.

BECAUSE WE HAVE  
BEEN GIVEN MUCH



"Because we have been given much, we as Southern Baptists have the privilege, the resources and the responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission to go across the street and across the world."

—Lynne Bates, missionary to Portugal

Week of Prayer for  
Foreign Missions  
Dec. 4-11, 1988

Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering  
National Goal:  
\$84 million

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

dedicated life and tragic death boosted giving enormously.

WMU and the Lottie Moon offering saved the Foreign Mission Board from financial extinction many times during the tough Depression years of the late 1920s and 1930s, and it provided a vital lifeline during World II. And when mission board leaders called for an ambitious worldwide mission advance after the war, the offering grew quickly.

In 1955, Foreign Mission Board leader Baker James Cauthen



## Bible Society Day: Nov. 13

These men appear to be totally abandoned to the Word of God during a Bible study conducted by Southern Baptist missionary Doug Ringer in the village of Klong Phroen Suk, Thailand. Southern Baptists have set aside Nov. 13 this year as the Sunday to recognize "American Bible Society Day," remembering the part the organization plays in getting Scriptures into the hands of people. (FMB) PHOTO BY Don Rutledge

## "Christmas in Cuba" to receive 50,000 Bibles

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BWA) — "Christmas in Cuba will receive 50,000 Bibles over the next five years!"

That was the official announcement of the eight Cuban delegates who attended the Baptist World Alliance General Council in July in the Bahamas.

Permission by the government to import the Bibles came as a result of the recent visit to Cuba by General Secretary Denton Lotz, who in a conversation with Fidel Castro presented the need for more religious literature. This was followed with a letter requesting the distribution of Bibles, which drew the positive response.

The printing and shipment of the Spanish-language Bibles will be done in cooperation with the United Bible Societies.

Baptist World Aid, the BWA relief and development Division, has set a goal of raising \$50,000 to cover the cost of the first shipment of 10,000 Bibles in Cuba this year.



## 100% 41 years

Dave Carter, a member and deacon of Pioneer Church, Woodville, has completed 41 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School and has been 100 percent each Sunday.

# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The agony at Carey

Opinions on the William Carey College campus are divided concerning the action of the trustees as they declined in a split vote to extend the contract of Carey President Ralph Noonkester past his 65th birthday next June.

A press conference was called last week by a ministerial student, Jeff Rimes, to announce the formation of a new student organization on the campus. The new organization, to be called Fresh Start, supports the action of the trustees. The already established Student Government Association, evidently, supports the president.

One must wonder if the division among students is to some degree a ministerial-non-ministerial split. One student said that the ministerial students on the Hattiesburg campus had a tendency to hold themselves aloof from the other students. Rimes, as is noted, is a ministerial student; but he claimed that if the numbers were counted, his new organization would outnumber the Student Government Association. One would not expect that ministerial students would hold a majority on the campus.

A faculty member, choosing his words carefully, said the faculty supports the administration. His indication was that there was no other choice. He pointed out that the faculty generally felt it was the duty of the board of trustees to provide a president and administrative personnel

and the faculty then would support whomever that might be.

Another student and another member of the administration supported the current administration, and several faculty members said that the beginning of the current fall semester had brought new life and enthusiasm to the Hattiesburg campus.

The student said that the majority of the students support the president but that the controversy is splitting the campus.

This student said that the student body has the most to lose if Noonkester leaves, but that is not an accurate statement. The students have already lost heavily regardless of what happens. Regardless of the final conclusion of this circumstance, the student body has lost and will have lost more than any other entity.

To discuss a "final conclusion" is to indicate that the circumstances could change. That is not known. At the present time the only conclusion is that the president's contract has not been renewed. A trustee meeting called for Oct. 25 was cancelled. Evidently three trustees can call for a meeting, however, and that was the case for today (Nov. 3).

Hopefully, this meeting, called by only three trustees, was not called with the intention of taking advantage of the fact that there are only 12 trustees left on the board and to get it in ahead of the convention when a

full slate will be on hand again.

Rimes said that he and the new organization support the action of the trustees because the school needs new leadership. He said that they want to work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the trustees to bring about a rapid conclusion to the matter.

He was correct in stating that there is not much reason for attending a Christian institution unless it offers Christian distinctives. In his thinking, evidently, this has not been the case. Others said the climate had been changing and morale and enthusiasm had been building.

So what is the answer for William Carey? Ultimately, Mississippi Baptists will decide by the measure of their support. It will need to be support in a measure that has not been apparent in the immediate past, causing the administration to have a look to individuals for big gifts rather than expecting Mississippi students to attend in large enough numbers to provide tuition income that would be adequate.

Granted, tuition income and Cooperative Program gifts are not enough to completely fund a college; and large gifts are needed.

For a school to survive, however, there must be a positive support that can come only from a large enough student population. There, in the final analysis, is the critical element of decision.

## Breaking the law

Protests of abortion clinics are gathering steam all across the nation. Without question, the protests are justified, for, without question, abortion has to be wrong.

Breaking the law, however, also is wrong even though done in name of religion and in an effort to right another wrong.

Those who protest at abortion clinics are doing so to protest a law that they feel is wrong. They have every reason to call attention to what they feel is a bad law and to take actions to seek to cause the law to be repealed.

When they break the law in the process, however, they have defeated their purpose.

The law against trespassing is a good law. We would not want conditions to be such that we could not cause unwelcomed encroachers and intruders to be evicted from our property.

Yet to trespass in the protest of an undesirable law is to declare that the law against trespassing is of no consideration.

Evidently abortion is almost a national epidemic. We may have shades of differences in our concern, but generally Southern Baptists oppose abortion wholeheartedly. The Southern Baptist Convention has spoken out against abortion through resolutions for many years.

Yet we are a people who are in support of law enforcement. We believe that we should be law-abiding citizens. If we trespass on the property of someone else, we break the law.

It is true that many protesters would argue that such law breaking is justified in the light of the result that is being sought. But who is to decide which laws are all right to break and which ones should have compliance? When that is done, those who make the decisions are taking the law into their own hands. The result of this, followed to its possible conclusion, could be anarchy.

Peaceful, lawful protestations are fine. Abortion needs to be eliminated. Attention needs to be called to its horror. Breaking the law, however, is not the way to do it.

Many protesters gather on neutral ground to pray. Can we not trust the Lord to help us find a way to influence a solution? Those who trespass would seem to feel that we cannot.

Those who pray, however, have a better perspective on the problem. Theirs is a more direct way to the source of a solution.

Laws are formulated in the halls of Congress. There is where the battles need to be fought. They may not all be won. They never are for anybody. That, however, is the proper battlefield.

In a home, on the walls may be framed achievements of one's person's life. Since there are none of the other persons' achievements, one might suppose that they have none, but only time will tell. Their achievements won't be found framed anywhere on earth, but are recorded daily in a log in heaven. — Linda S. Leach, Greenville

## GOD'S MANDATE



Right now, however, it is a matter for the trustees to handle. That is their job. That is what they are elected to do. We must allow them to function. They have spoken. If there is to be a change, it is up to them.

Pray for them. They will have to live with whatever their final decision will be. Let's not make their job tougher than it has to be. Their ranks are split. They need divine guidance in order to find a common direction if, indeed, the direction is to be altered or changed or even reconsidered.

One has to admire junior student Rimes for his courage in speaking out.

His position will be applauded by many, and it will be challenged by many.

And in the realm of challenges, Mississippi Baptists in the next few weeks may be facing their most serious challenges in a long history of outstanding and glorious service in God's Kingdom. The times demand clear thinking and a total dependence on the Lord's leadership.

The well-being and, indeed, perhaps even the future of two of our institutions, William Carey and Clarke, are in question. Those are serious matters.

## Baptist Beliefs . . .

### The Holy Spirit and the world

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"He will reprove [convict] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." — John 16:8

The Holy Spirit works with the lost, endeavoring to lead them to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. He brings conviction, which means that a person sees and admits his sin and lost condition.

Jesus says the Spirit will convict the lost person of sin which he has; of righteousness, the state of being right with God, which he does not have; and of judgment, which outside of Christ he most surely faces (vv. 9-11).

The Spirit convicts of sin, because the lost do not believe in Jesus as Savior (v. 9). The greatest of sins is failure to believe in Jesus (John 3:18). Also he convicts of righteousness, "because I go to my Father, and ye see

me no more" (v. 10). While Jesus was on earth he revealed in himself God's righteousness. Thus people saw how far short they were of it. The Spirit continues to do this. Likewise, he convicts of judgment, "because the prince of this world is judged" (v. 11). The Spirit shows the judgment and final state of Satan and of all who serve him rather than to believe in and serve the Lord (Rev. 20:10, 15).

Conviction is not synonymous with salvation. It merely reveals one's need of a Savior. Following conviction, a person may plunge deeper into sin or he may receive Christ as Savior (John 3:19-21). The decision is yours to make.

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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# Mississippi Baptist Convention

153rd Session  
Nov. 14-16, 1988  
First Baptist Church  
Jackson

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."  
Jude (verse 24)

November 14

Monday Evening	First Session
"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling" (Jude verse 24)	
6:30 Pre-Convention Concert	Mississippi Singing Churchmen Milfred Valentine, Director
6:55 Call to Worship	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:00 Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
Scripture (Jude 17-25)	Reese Kyzar
Prayer	Randy Lewman
7:05 Organization of Convention	
Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Jim Futral
Report of Committee on Order of Business	Tommy Vinson
Welcome	Schuyler Batson
7:15 Special Music	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:20 Bible Treasure	D. L. Lowrie
7:45 New Workers Recognized	Earl Kelly
Report of Committee on Committees	Rex Yancey
Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	John W. Flowers
Presentation of 1989 Budget	Ingram Foster
8:15 Bold New Growth Testimony	Roy Myers
8:20 Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
8:25 Special Music	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
8:30 Message	Earl Kelly
9:15 Benediction	Ken Cooper
Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen

November 15

Tuesday Morning	Second Session
"Wherefore He is able also to save . . ." (Hebrews 7:25)	
8:30 Prelude	Instrumental/Choral Praise
8:55 Call to Worship	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson J. M. Wood, Director
9:00 Congregational Praise	J. M. Wood
Scripture (Hebrews 7:24-28)	Mike Carr
Prayer	Tommy Tapp
9:05 Bible Treasure	D. L. Lowrie
9:30 Recognition of Visitors	Jim Futral
9:35 Business Session	
Presentation of Resolutions	Ken Anderson
Election of Convention President	
10:00 Report of Christian Action Commission	Paul Jones
10:05 Special Music	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson
10:10 Congregational Praise	J. M. Wood
10:15 Bold New Growth Testimony	Sammy J. McDonald, III
10:20 Report of Committees	
Nominations	Bill Causey
Time, Place and Preacher	Wayne Riley
10:25 Report of Education Commission	Bill Stewart
10:35 Business Session	
Convention Board Report	Don O'Quin
Adoption of Budget	Ingram Foster
Miscellaneous Business	
10:55 Mississippi Baptist Foundation	Aubrey Boone
11:00 Convention in Worship	
Congregational Praise	J. M. Wood
Special Music	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson
President's Message	Jim Futral
11:45 Benediction	Adron Horne
Choral Praise	Broadmoor Baptist Church Choir, Jackson

November 15

Tuesday Afternoon	Third Session
"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ." (Ephesians 3:20)	
1:30 Prelude	Instrumental/Choral Praise
1:55 Call to Worship	Gulf Coast Associational Choir Arnold Bridges, Walter Conrad, Jimmy Little, Zeno Wells, Directors
2:00 Congregational Praise	Zeno Wells, Director
Scripture (Ephesians 3:14-21)	Gregg Potts
Prayer	Tommy Miller
2:05 Bible Treasure	D. L. Lowrie
2:35 Bold New Growth Testimony	Randy Rich
2:40 Election of Convention Officers	
First Vice-President	

(Continued on page 6)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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Thursday, November 3, 1988

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## Carey trustee group seeks vote reversal on president

By Tim Nicholas

William Carey College trustees Lewis Fowler, Joe Dale, and John D. Thomas have called a special meeting of trustees for today, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m., on the Carey campus.

Purpose of the meeting, according to the letter sent by the three to other trustees, will be to rescind the previous action of trustees who voted not to renew President Ralph Noonkester's contract past his 65th birthday which is next June.

This meeting follows on the heels of a Mississippi Baptist Education Commission meeting at Blue Mountain College during which Noonkester and Earl Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, both discussed Carey's shaky finances.

The meeting today in Hattiesburg

will be to consider "1 — renewal of the contract of Dr. Ralph Noonkester as president of William Carey College after age 65; 2 — the forming of a presidential search committee; and 3 — the extension of the term of Noonkester as president of William Carey until the first day of June, 1990."

The letter also notes consideration of formal action by the trustees on refinancing of the present capital debt of Wilkes Hall and Bryant Hall.

On Sept. 29, trustees voted 5-4 not to renew Noonkester's contract past his 65th birthday next June after being asked by Noonkester to deal with his contract following retirement policy discussion which had been brought up by Trustee Thomas.

A scheduled meeting of the trustees on Oct. 25 was cancelled by Chairman

Billy McKay, citing a less than complete board. The recent resignation of Tommy King left the board with only 12 members.

That meeting would have named the trustee members of a search committee to name a replacement for Carey President Ralph Noonkester. Search committee representatives were to come from the students and faculty at one each, with five to come from the trustees.

Trustee David Spencer pastor of First Church, Long Beach, in an interview with the Baptist Record, said that King resigned during an "information session" held at Carey on Oct. 17. King, a staff member of the Columbia school system, voted with the

(Continued on page 5)

## FMB appoints first woman to administrative post overseas

Two persons from Mississippi have taken on new responsibilities with the Foreign Mission Board.

Faye Pearson, a Foreign Mission Board missionary educator and student worker in Taiwan for 20 years, has been named associate to the director for East Asia. She is the first woman named by the mission board to a regional administrative post overseas.

From a base in Taiwan, Pearson, of Laurel, Miss., will relate to nearly 200 Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao. Her responsibilities will include personal

ministry to missionary families, spiritual support and development, coordination of missionary education and training, and evaluation of mis-



Pearson

Ditsworth

sionary work, programs and institutions.

Mary Alice Ditsworth of Pascagoula, Miss., a 31-year veteran of missionary work in Indonesia, will become interim associate director for South Asia and the Pacific beginning Dec. 1, until John Ingouf takes over responsibilities in that slot next April. Ditsworth of Pascagoula, Miss., worked in religious education and publications in Indonesia. She plans to be administrative secretary to Jerry Rankin, director for Southern Asia and the Pacific, in Singapore after she leaves Richmond.

## Missionaries will enter Netherlands

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (BP) — Southern Baptists' first missionaries to the Netherlands will bring experience in three cultures to their new assignment.

Loren and Cherry Turnage, Southern Baptist missionaries since 1959, are transferring to the Netherlands from Scotland, where they helped launch an English-language church.

In the Netherlands, they will lead an

English-language church formed earlier this year in Eindhoven, a city of 380,000 people 70 miles south of Amsterdam. The Philips electronics corporate group, which employs thousands of English-speaking workers, is headquartered there.

The Turnages worked in Colombia for 11 years. They transferred to Iran in 1973, where he led an English-language church in Tehran until 1977.

They have worked in Scotland since 1978. He is from Bolivar, Mo. She is from Sapulpa, Okla.

The number of countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work remains at 113. As the Netherlands is being added, Vanuatu in the South Pacific is being dropped because authorities refused residence visas for a missionary couple appointed to work there.

## Convention announcements

### Southern alumni meeting set

LOUISVILLE, KY — The annual meeting of alumni and friends of the Southern Seminary in Jackson, has been set for noon, Nov. 15. The Skyroom at the Baptist Building is the site for the meeting.



**Jackson**  
Director of Supervised Ministry Experience.

The featured speaker will be Walter Jackson, Professor of Ministry/Seminary. Tickets and information may be obtained from Raymon Leake, state alumni president, First Baptist Church, 1420 Goodyear Blvd., Picayune, MS, 39466.

### NOBTS alumni luncheon set

NEW ORLEANS — A luncheon for New Orleans Seminary alumni in Mississippi has been scheduled for noon Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

Guest speaker will be Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Seminary.

For more information, contact Jim Futral, 787 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss., 39206.

### BMC alumni luncheon planned

The Blue Mountain College alumni meeting will be held during supper break on Tuesday evening during the Miss. Baptist Convention, Nov. 15, at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. (Jim Futral, the Broadmoor pastor and convention president, is a Blue Mountain graduate.)

Terry Hurt, music minister at West Jackson Church, Tupelo, will bring special music, and Arlis Grice, pastor of Goodyear Church, Picayune, will bring the message.

Tickets will be on sale at the BMC exhibit table, or from Chuck Hampton or David Hamilton. They will be \$6 each.

Randy Isbell, pastor of Hopewell Church, Savannah, Tenn., is the alumni president.

### Alliance reception set for Nov. 15

The Southern Baptist Alliance in Mississippi will sponsor a reception on Tuesday, Nov. 15, during the state convention in Jackson. The reception will be held in the Old Primos Building across from First Baptist Church at 4:30 p.m.

Steve Odom, pastor of University Church, Hattiesburg, said, "Present members and interested persons are invited to drop in and talk with state SBA leaders and members. Information on the purpose of the SBA and membership in the SBA will be available, as well as the latest publications."

### Southwestern luncheon Nov. 15

Alumni and former students from Southwestern Seminary will meet in Jackson Nov. 15, at 12:15 p.m. at Calvary Church. Frank Stovall, professor of voice at Southwestern, will be guest speaker.

Reports will highlight Upward 90, the seminary's plan for ministry in the 1990's. Also planned is a review of Southwestern's 80/10 Celebration, the year-long celebration of the seminary's 80th anniversary and Russell Dilday's 10th as president. Ron Mumbower, Jackson, alumni leader in Mississippi, will preside.

Southwestern Seminary has enrolled 50,600 students in its history. Tickets are \$9.00 (\$10.00 after Nov. 10) and may be ordered from Mumbower at First Baptist Church, Box 1155, Jackson, MS 39205. They will be available at the Sunday School booth during the convention.

### Preschool care to be available at convention

Preschool care will be available for children, ages birth through five, at First Church, Jackson, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 14-16.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off President Street.

The following are procedures to be followed:

1. Register, giving names of the child or children, the parent, and the church.
2. Be sure all belongings are labeled.
3. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.
4. Leave the children no earlier than 20 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the sessions.

Children may be left through noon on Tues. if parents provide sack lunch.

### BBi alumni will meet

Alumni of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., will meet Nov. 15 at Western Sizzlin' on Highway 80 in Jackson. The luncheon will feature Dr. and Mrs. Wiley Richards. Richards is a professor at BBI. Bob O'Neal, pastor of Auburn Church, Tupelo, is Mississippi alumni president. Cost will be menu price, plus \$1 for private room. No reservations are necessary.

### Mid-America alumni supper

Mid-America Seminary alumni supper will be held in the Sky Room in the Baptist Building on Nov. 15, at 5:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Johnny Hutchinson at Duck Hill.

## New student group supports trustees

By Don McGregor

A William Carey College ministerial student, Jeff Rimes of Pascagoula, has announced the formation of a new student organization on the campus of the college in support of the action of the William Carey trustees in failing to extend the contract of the president, Ralph Noonkester, past his 65th birthday next June.

During a press conference last week on the campus of the college, Rimes said that the new organization would be known as Fresh Start to indicate a change in administrative direction.

In answer to a question, Rimes said the new organization would be larger than the already present Student Government Association, but no figures were given. Only one other student in support of the new organization was present, but observers agreed that there was little said about the press conference in order to create a minimum of attention during class hours.

Rimes, a junior student at William Carey College on the Coast, is also children's minister at First Church, Escatawpa.

In answering another question, Rimes said that the new organization was not linked to ministerial students. He added, however, that ministerial students have the most at stake in the future of William Carey and want to see the school survive.

Rimes said that the intent of the new organization would be to build up Carey, not to tear it down. "We love William Carey," he said. "We will work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the trustees to bring a rapid solution to the present conflict."

In his opening remarks at the beginning of the news conference, Rimes said that the new organization of students supports the trustees in the retirement of Carey President Noonkester after 32 years in the post. "The school needs new leadership," he noted.

Rimes pointed out that Christian education must have a distinctive, and that public institutions cost \$2,000 less to attend. "Why pay the extra unless it is worthwhile?" he asked. He charged that the only difference between an education at Carey and at a public institution is the chapel service.

"The school is not owned by the students," he said; "and it is not owned by President Noonkester. It is not owned by the trustees. Mississippi Baptists own the school."

"We must be able to say to Mississippi Baptists," he said, "this is a Christian institution."

Rimes had been a student on the Hattiesburg campus until the illness of his mother in Pascagoula caused his move back home and transfer to the coast campus.

Fresh Start will not do anything divisive, Rimes said. "We will work behind the scenes and to inform," he noted.

Rimes' claim was that it is the ministerial students who have the most at stake in the future of the school and who want to see it survive.

Those feelings, however, "are not limited to ministerial students," he said in answering a question seeking to determine if the division among students on the campus is split between ministerial students and others.

In his statement Rimes had pointed out that some of Carey's major supporters had threatened to withhold their support if Noonkester were to leave. This provoked a question from a newsman as to the source of support in that case. He said that sound fiscal operations would take care of the financial situation and added that he felt it would be a mistake to delay the retirement decision until conditions could settle down.

In a separate interview following the press conference, Alice McCardle, public relations official for the school, said morale is higher on the campus during this fall semester than it has been for some time before. She said that this is a condition felt by both students and faculty and that the students that were recruited for the fall semester were quality students.

Dewayne Pruitt, a coast campus student, said he supported Noonkester because he felt the school would have more to lose if he left than if he stayed.

"A majority of the students support Noonkester," Pruitt said. The controversy is spilling over onto the campus, he noted, and indicated that he felt that the student body as a whole would be the loser if Noonkester left.

"Morale is higher on the coast campus because the students there are more closely knit and not so directly affected," he said.

Pruitt indicated that on the Hattiesburg campus the ministerial students have held themselves aside from the remainder of the students. "The students would like to know them," he said. "They could help morale."

On the coast, he said, the ministerial students are involved with the other students.

The Hattiesburg campus, he said, has been renovated and is pleasant. "I used to wonder why go here because it was the same as a public institution. Now I am happy at Carey," he added.

### Space still available for NAC

Space is still available on State WMU sponsored buses and planes to the National Acteens Convention July 12-15, 1989, at San Antonio.

If Acteens want to be a part of the State trips, they should contact Ann Preston at International Tours of Clinton (924-8687) or Jan Cossitt at the WMU office (968-3800).

Those making their own arrangements for NAC, should contact the WMU office (968-3800) to advise of plans.

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# Foreign Board transfers seminary title to Europeans

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Steps to give European Baptists ownership of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, were taken by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 12.

The board approved the property transfer, along with a set of recommendations to European Baptists on the operation of the seminary.

The seminary, which has weathered various budget crises and allegations of liberal theology, has trained more

than 1,000 students representing every continent since it was founded by the Foreign Mission Board in 1949.

And, according to a team of five trustees from the board that met with Baptist leaders from Western and Eastern Europe, the seminary fostered healing and a sense of unity after the devastation of World War II.

The FMB team, which was in Europe Sept. 29-Oct. 4, was created during the board's July meeting to "listen and gather information" about

concerns related to the seminary. It was led by board Chairman C. Mark Corts of Winston-Salem, N.C.

In Foreign Mission Board deliberations Oct. 12, trustees cast split votes in defeating two motions to amend the proposal. The amendments were offered by Lloyd Hansen of Memphis, Tenn., and Paige Patterson of Dallas. On the final vote, eight trustees out of 67 in attendance voted against the plan.

The team, in its report to the board, said the property transfer is consistent with the board's historic aim of indigenous work. Seminaries, schools and hospitals founded by Southern Baptists now are owned, operated, and financed by Baptist conventions or unions in numerous countries.

The transfer also will help the seminary's finances, the team said. A \$100,000 deficit is projected this year. European Baptists plan to earn in-

come from the seminary property by mortgaging it, a common practice in Switzerland. It is valued at more than \$17 million.

As part of the ownership transfer, the European Baptist Federation will create a legal foundation in Switzerland, which will borrow at Swiss interest rates of about 4.5 percent but will invest the amount it mortgages outside Switzerland at about 7.5 percent interest.

## Carey trustee group . . .

(Continued from page 3)

5-4 majority not to renew Noonkester's contract.

Spencer said that at the information session, the group looked at the school's balance sheet and understood that it was obvious that unless something drastic is done, the college would have an anticipated deficit by Dec. 31 of \$400,000, and on June 30, the end of the fiscal year, of \$1.3 million.

In attendance at the meeting were trustees McKay, King, Spencer, Dwight Smith, Wiley Abel, Elise Curtis, Lewis Fowler, former trustee Bill Ray who was invited by McKay because of his knowledge of the school's finances, vice presidents Hugh Dickens and J.V. McCrory, Noonkester, and Earl Kelly. Ray had resigned as a trustee earlier citing lack of liability insurance for trustees.

Ray asked Noonkester why the trustees had not been given this information in September and that he had tried to point out the financial troubles to Noonkester last spring, but, according to Spencer, Ray said, "you wouldn't listen."

Spencer said Ray then left the meeting. He said Noonkester told the trustees that Ray had "something stuck in his craw" because trustee John Thomas and Noonkester would not let Ray interfere in the finances of the school.

At that point, Trustee Dwight Smith said that Ray was a personal friend of his and he wasn't going to listen. He then left the meeting.

Trustee Lewis Fowler, after about an hour of the meeting, got up to leave citing another meeting obligation, but noting he was behind Noonkester's leadership.

And Trustee Tommy King left after an hour, turning in his resignation to Chairman McKay.

Spencer said the remaining group talked of how to make up the deficit. He said Noonkester had reevaluated Bryant dormitory and Wilkes dining hall at between \$800,000 and \$1 million and that he was working out a deal with former Mayor Bobby Chain who holds the note on those buildings at three percent interest. That note would be refinanced, said Spencer, and would give the school \$600,000 in cash to pay outstanding bills. Spencer said he told the group he disagreed with that idea, saying it was a short term solution putting the college "further and further in the hole."

Noonkester said it had to be done to save the school and to Spencer he said that "come next month the good Baptists are not going to sit by and let you do this to us," an apparent reference,

said Spencer, to Spencer's vote concerning Noonkester's contract.

Noonkester reported to the group that he had already extended Carey's line of credit another \$100,000. "We understood it was to make payroll for the middle of the month," said Spencer.

Both Chairman McKay and Trustee Dwight Smith substantiated the events of the Oct. 17 meeting for the Baptist Record.

Since that meeting took place and the events revealed, the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission has met. That meeting took place last Friday, Oct. 28 at Blue Mountain College.

At that meeting, Noonkester confirmed his intention to have two Hattiesburg campus buildings refinanced in order to obtain an infusion of approximately \$415,000 to the college. The current mortgage on the two buildings is \$805,000 with a balance owed of \$390,000, with rates of between three and four percent.

At that meeting, Noonkester reported a budget surplus of \$11,925 for the last fiscal year.

And Earl Kelly, MBCB executive director, explained to commission members that the audit report which reflected that budget surplus does not show the complete picture of Carey's financial status. Mississippi Baptists, said Kelly, need "to know the true condition of the colleges you are dealing with."

Kelly said that, according to an audit review committee which works voluntarily, actually Carey has current funds notes payable at \$1,200,000 as of June 1988. Two years ago that amount was \$360,000. Endowment fund loans total \$388,000 as of June 1988 when they were \$134,000 one year ago.

Total debts at Carey, including general fund and plant fund debts, total more than \$7.5 million.

"We have a real problem in cash flow at Carey College," said Kelly.

"At a minimum," said Kelly, Carey is "\$1.2 million in the hole in spite of what that audit shows." He added, "It frightens me we can come in here and the auditing report shows them (Carey, nearly \$12,000) in the black when in reality you're \$1.2 million in the hole. Sooner or later those facts get on top of the table."

Noonkester told the group that "if the whole situation at Carey can be settled down" that Noonkester could begin to raise a million dollars for debt retirement. He noted that if the financial situation continues to worsen, "the whole of the coast campus can be put up for sale."

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# Mississippi Baptist Convention

## Baptists respond to storm damage

(Continued from page 3)

Second Vice-President  
Recording Secretary  
Associate Recording Secretary

3:00 Miscellaneous Business  
3:15 Special Music ..... Gulf Coast Associational Choir  
3:20 Report of Baptist Children's Village ..... Paul N. Nunnery  
3:25 Report of Brotherhood ..... Paul Harrell  
3:30 Report of Board of Ministerial Education ..... Hardy Denham  
3:35 Report of WMU ..... Marjean Patterson  
3:45 Convention in Worship  
Congregational Praise ..... Zeno Wells, Director  
Special Music ..... Gulf Coast Associational Choir  
Convention Sermon ..... Bobby Perry  
Gulf Coast Association  
4:30 Benediction ..... Samuel Jones  
Choral Praise ..... Gulf Coast Associational Choir

### November 15

**Tuesday Evening** ..... **Fourth Session**  
"And God is able to make all grace abound . . ." (II Corinthians 9:8)  
6:45 Prelude ..... Instrumental/Choral Praise  
6:50 Call to Worship ..... Men's Quartet  
First Baptist Church, Jackson  
7:00 Congregational Praise ..... Rick Munn  
Scripture (II Corinthians 9:8-15) ..... J. H. Stribling, Jr.  
Prayer ..... J. B. Costilow  
7:05 Bible Treasure ..... D. L. Lowrie  
7:30 Congregational Praise ..... Rick Munn  
7:35 Bold New Growth Testimony ..... P. J. Scott  
7:40 Special Music ..... Gary Anglin  
7:45 Sermon ..... Davis Saunders  
8:15 Congregational Praise ..... Rick Munn  
8:20 Special Music ..... Martha Bacon  
8:25 Sermon ..... Jim Henry  
9:00 Benediction ..... Talmadge Littlejohn  
Instrumental Praise

### November 16

**Wednesday Morning** ..... **Fifth Session**  
"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me . . ." (I Timothy 1:12)  
8:30 Prelude ..... Instrumental/Choral Praise  
8:55 Call to Worship ..... Fairview Baptist Church Choir, Columbus  
Slater Murphy, Director  
9:00 Congregational Praise ..... Slater Murphy  
Scripture (I Timothy 1:12-17) ..... G. Wiley Gann  
Prayer ..... Howard Curbow  
9:05 Bible Treasure ..... D. L. Lowrie  
9:30 Miscellaneous Business and Report of Resolutions Committee  
10:20 Congregational Praise ..... Slater Murphy  
10:25 Bold New Growth Testimony ..... Page Hughes  
10:30 Special Music ..... Fairview Baptist Church Choir, Columbus  
10:35 Memorial Service ..... Louis Smith  
10:45 Convention in Worship  
Congregational Praise ..... Slater Murphy  
Special Music ..... Fairview Baptist Church Choir, Columbus  
Sermon ..... Landrum Leavell  
11:45 Benediction ..... Ronnie Massey  
Choral Praise ..... Fairview Baptist Church Choir, Columbus

**Mississippi Baptist Convention Officers:** president, Jim Futral; first vice president, Gerald Harris; second vice president, Eddie Hamilton; recording secretary, J. Clark Hensley; associate recording secretary, J. W. Brister.

**Committee On Order of Business:** Tommy Vinson, chairman; Hal Buchanan; Dennis Johnsey; Ron Burch; Gary Berry; Becky Payne.

**Accompanists:** Eva Hart, Pianist; Becky Payne, Organist.

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists have begun to respond to human needs after torrential rains, floods and high winds battered the Philippines and Central America. Missionaries were unhurt in the two storms.

In the Philippines, Typhoon Ruby dumped up to nine inches of rain as it cut a 700-mile swath from the southern island of Mindanao to northernmost Luzon, reported Sam Waldron, Southern Baptists' missionary administrator in Manila.

On the other side of the globe, Hurricane Joan skirted along the northern coast of South America, then went ashore in Central America, leaving a path of flood and wind damage from Colombia to Nicaragua.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$13,000 in disaster relief funds Oct. 26, primarily to help families on San Andres Island in the Caribbean repair their homes.

On the mainland, Southern Baptist missionary Bob Caperton of Alvin, Texas, and a Colombian pastor rented a boat to take \$1,000 in food to an area on the Guajira Peninsula in Colombia. Residents there lost their livelihood from salt beds when the beds were washed away.

Marty Croll writes for the FMB.

# HMB directors approve staff reorganization

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Church starting, church growth, evangelism and ministry will be given priority in a new staff structure approved by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their October meeting.

Directors approved organizational changes suggested by Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis in the first major reorganization of the board's Atlanta-based staff since 1972. Input came from staff board members, and key persons in the SBC.

The new structure will be in place by Jan. 1, 1989, Lewis said. The reorganization does not call for any

layoffs or firings but adds three additional elected staff positions.

Missionaries on the field will continue to function as before, although seven of the 3,760 missionaries will report to units in different sections as a result of reorganization.

The new structure has five major sections — evangelism, extension, ministry, planning, and services — compared to four sections in the previous structure.

What previously was called the missions section will be divided into two sections: ministry and extension.

Directors elected two new vice presidents to lead the new sections.

Paul Adkins, director of the mission

ministries division, was named vice president for ministry. Charles Chaney, special assistant to the president, was named vice president for extension.

Gerald Palmer, current vice president of the missions section, will become a special assistant to the president. Lewis asked Palmer to postpone his retirement one year to assist with implementing reorganization.

Bob Banks will continue his role as executive vice president. Wally Buckner, current director of the multiethnic ministries department, will become assistant to Banks.

Four offices will be attached to the

executive office: prayer and spiritual awakening, public relations, controller, and Woman's Missionary Union field worker.

Of these four, only the public relations office is a new unit. It combines the existing news and information department with part of the existing promotion department.

The extension section will include five divisions: associational missions, new church extension, language church extension, black church extension, and church loans.

Black church extension has been elevated to division status and moved from the missions ministries division.

The evangelism section will undergo minor changes but will face new leadership in the future. Bob Hamblin, current vice president of the evangelism section, has announced his retirement for the end of this year.

Three divisions will be assigned to the evangelism section: direct evangelism, evangelism development, and church growth.

The new ministry section, headed by Adkins, will have three divisions: missions ministries, volunteer, and chaplaincy.

The new volunteer division includes departments for Mission Service Corps and short-term volunteers.

Mark Wingfield writes for the HMB.

# Cothen calls Baptists to remember our purpose

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "Unless we remember with great care and grave discrimination the purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention, we may lose it all," former denominational executive Grady Cothen told students and faculty at New Orleans Seminary. He said the Southern Baptist Convention's "purpose was never to organize conformity, nor enforce doctrinal purity, nor to seek a source of authority. The purpose was the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Cothen, former president of the Sunday School Board and a resident of Pass Christian, Miss., said one of the main distinguishing characteristics of Southern Baptists is "soul competence" (a term developed by E.Y.

Mullins, Southern Baptist theologian and past president of Southern Seminary).

"It involves the ability of the individual to know, to relate to, to respond to, and to be responsible to God for himself. This, of course, underlies the basic concept of the priesthood of the believer. It involves the right of direct access to God," said Cothen.

There must be no inhibitions by the government, the church, or other Christians in fulfilling the priesthood of every Christian, he said. "Jesus Christ is our final authority."

The Christian who is leaning on Jesus as his authority and listening to the Holy Spirit as he interprets the Bible "will not walk here with the presumptive tread of the know-it-all

but will walk here with that receptive heart to say, 'Oh, Lord, if I'm wrong, show me the way.'

"This eliminates judgment; this eliminates the authority of others over your conscience; it eliminates authority of others over your church," Cothen said.

"A resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention does not dislocate one's entire spiritual orientation. Jesus is the answer," he said. "We do not need anyone else to tell us . . . how it is, . . . though you teach me and I teach you, and we profit one from another. But, none of us rules over the rest of us."

"I believe every word of the Baptist Faith and Message," said Cothen, who

was on the committee which drew up the statement of Southern Baptist beliefs. "But any time you substitute the Baptist Faith and Message for the word of God, you have become a first-class Baptist heretic. The Scripture is our rule of faith and practice."

"I refuse to accept some rationalistic understanding of what the Bible says in the place of what the Bible says itself. In these serious days of change, we're surrounded by confusion on many issues we have traditionally been settled on."

Cothen called for a recommitment to the Cooperative Program, which along with soul competence is also a distinguishing characteristic of Southern Baptists. Missions can be

done "more massively and economically" through cooperating together in this system of organization and funding which has made Southern Baptists who they are, said Cothen.

"I have no fear about our losing our basic theology. I have great terror at the thought we may lose our polity; we may lose our understanding of ecclesiology; we may lose our understanding of authority; we may lose our understanding of the Bible as our sole principle of faith and practice, not what somebody said about it."

Cothen said the goal of Southern Baptists today and always should remain that of cooperation and missions.



## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



### Lepsogs appear at the fair

Clowns at a circus? Yes. But clowns at the state fair? Maybe. I stopped first inside the fair gate to pet the baby goats and then reached for a free "syrup and biscuit" before I met the clown, Lu-Loo, in front of a striped tent. She and two other teen clowns, Stepho and Nikko, were witnessing to fairgoers. "I like to tell kids about Jesus," Lu-Loo told one reporter.

The three, all Baptists, call themselves the Lepsog Clowns (Gospel spelled backwards). Allison Rogers (Lu-Loo), 15, is a member of First Baptist Church, Morton. Nikki Miller, 14, is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pearl. Stephanie Wallace (Stepho), 15, is a member of Concord Baptist Church, Rankin County. They were working at the fair as part of the Child Evangelism Fellowship ministry.

Volunteers from Baptist churches (First, Jackson; Woodville Heights; Colonial Heights; Timberlawn; McDowell Road; Broadmoor; and Leesburg) and Presbyterian churches were also witnessing to individuals or small groups who entered the tent.

Sally Stevens, member of First Baptist Church, Pelahatchie, and director of the Central Mississippi Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship, said 6 or 7,000 usually pass through the tent during one state fair and hear the gospel presentation. This year, she said, helpers recorded over 1,100 decisions to receive Christ. Names of those who made decisions were given to churches for follow-up. Many of those decisions were made by teens and adults. The day I stopped by to help a little while, in one hour I talk-

ed with a group of five teens; a young man, age about 18 or 19; and a man.

One who decided to take Jesus as his Savior was a Hindu, a college student. Afterward he stood, his face glowing, and said, "I feel like a heavy burden has been lifted." Vernon Roth told me about the Hindu's conversion. Roth, who said he is not a preacher, but a farmer from Kansas, is national coordinator of fair ministries for the CEF. He said he spends around 133 days a year at fairs. In nine years of witnessing, he said, he has recorded 18,000 professions of faith. And he added, "Anyone can witness if I can. The trouble with a lot of Christians is we

don't expect enough from God. We limit him with our unbelief."

In another place at the fair, Hinds-Madison Baptist Association at its booth was giving away New Testaments and Gospels of Mark — 7,500 of each. J. W. Brister, director of missions for the association, said about 160 Baptist volunteers worked there, witnessing and distributing the Scriptures. They reported seven professions of faith.

It was the third year the association had had a booth at the state fair. Brister said some people who took Testaments in previous years, have read them, accepted Christ, written him about their experience, and asked for another Bible to give to someone else.

The Lepsogs, all students at East Rankin Academy; I learned, do their clowning all year, and not just at the fair. Perhaps you will be seeing their little red barn around the Jackson area, for they plan to use it at county fairs, apartment complexes, street corners, and shopping malls. With or without the barn, they are prepared to present programs for children (Bible stories, memory verses, songs, gymnastics) or programs for teens. They are available also to give programs at churches on Sunday nights or week nights. They may be contacted by calling Sally Stevens at 366-0440 or 854-8914.

If you see the red barn, you may be amazed — or you may think it's still Halloween! — The clowns prayed for a vehicle to transport their barn, I heard, and somebody gave them one. It's a hearse!



Sally Stevens

### 700 young people from 50 churches attend "Youth Night at the Stadium"

Nearly 700 young people from more than 50 churches throughout Mississippi attended the recent "Youth Night at the Stadium" program hosted by the Mississippi College and indications are the event will become an annual affair.

In addition to the youths who take part, the youth directors and ministers of activities of the various churches are also invited to accompany their young people and have the opportunity of winning a door prize.

This year Thomas Harris of Center Terrace Church, Canton won two tickets to the New Orleans Saints vs. Los Angeles Ram football game scheduled for Oct. 20, plus a free night's lodging at the New Court Inn in New Orleans.

Participants in this year's program were entertained pre-game in the A. E. Wood Coliseum by The Naturals, the Mississippi College singing troupe; by Priority, a Baptist Student Union musical group; and by the

Choctaw cheerleaders. They were treated with a hamburger supper in the Coliseum and then went as a group to the Mississippi College football game in Robinson-Hale Stadium.

"The young people seem to appreciate the informality of our program and the fact that they can socialize with their peers from other churches and from other sections of the state," said Mrs. Jennifer Trussell, director of admission.

### Tennessee elects executive

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — D.L. Lowrie, director of the state missions commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been elected unanimously to become executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Lowrie, 53, a native of Tennessee, was elected during a called meeting of the TBC Executive Board Sept. 29.

Lowrie and his wife, the former Alice Reynolds of Myrtle, Miss., have four sons.



"The Naturals," Mississippi College singing group, performed for the Baptist youth who attended the special program on campus.

Thursday, November 3, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



The Lepsog Clowns, Stepho, Lu-Loo, and Nikko, meet an elephant on the midway. Their reason for being at the fair, though, they said, was to meet people and to tell them about Jesus.

### Devotional

### Oops! Life's most awful moments

By Frank Gunn

The year was 1967. Art Linkletter released his book, *Oops! or, Life's Awful Moments*. I was fascinated by the title and bought my copy soon thereafter. Throughout the book he points out that the road of life is strewn with the banana peels of embarrassment. Among other things, the author reminds us that life leaves us all looking a little ridiculous at times.

Such awful moments are not strangers to us. We all have had our share of them. Usually, it is when we say or do the wrong things. However, I know of nothing worse or more awful than the picture described in Matthew 7. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Those described were folks who thought themselves to be saved but they were not. They were trusting in their prophetic abilities, the casting out of demons, and their wonderful works. They fully expected to be saved, but were not.

Today, there are people just as foolish as the ones described in Matthew. The answers may be a bit more modernized, like personal morality, good works, generous contributors to needy causes, community leaders, and the list goes on.

These people will be much like Roy Jones just a few weeks ago. He was representing the United States as a boxer in the 24th Olympics in Seoul, Korea. He fought a young Korean and definitely was the better of the two. The NBC announcers, with no reservations, announced he was the winner. Even the announcers on the Korean network declared Jones the winner. The referee stood with the boxers on either side awaiting the announcement of the judges. Roy Jones was poised in confidence waiting to hear his name called. Finally, the winner was announced over the speaker system — the name of his opponent. What an awful moment for him!

What a terrible experience it will be for a person to stand in the judgement, poised and ready to hear "Enter in," and instead to hear the words "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you."

Now is the time to make certain that you will never experience that awful moment. The solution to this situation is to make certain that you have received Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Gunn is pastor, First, Biloxi.

# Just for the Record



On October 16, Calvary Church, Louisville, declared Albert W. Metts Day. Metts has not missed a Sunday in 30 years. He was presented a 30 year pin and a large print Bible.

Pictured, left to right, are, Billy Watson, chairman of deacons, Bob Estes, Sunday School director, Metts, and Kent H. Cochran, pastor.

Phil Phillips, author of *Turmoil in the Toybox and Halloween and Satanism*, will be speaker at Hillcrest Church, Jackson, Nov. 6, at the 10:45 morning service. A multi media presentation will be held at 6 p.m. The author talks about cartoons and toys which are in the occult.

Cowan Road Church, Gulfport, will celebrate its 9th anniversary, Nov. 6. The 11 a.m. service will feature a reading of the church's history and recognition of the charter members. The history committee is in charge of the service. Grady Coleman, chairman. James Ham was the pastor for the first eight years. The church has a new pastor, J. Merrick Henry from Louisiana. Bill Metcalf is minister of music and youth. The church started meeting at the Tramark Golf Course Club House in 1979 and moved to its present location in 1981. The church has over 200 members. Dinner on the grounds following the morning worship service.

## Mary Bowman will speak at BMC Founders' Day

Blue Mountain College will celebrate Founders Day on Nov. 4. The keynote speaker for the day's activities will be Mrs. Mary Leavell Bowman.



Bowman is a native of Lawrenceburg, Ky., a graduate of Blue Mountain, and earned an M.A. from Northwestern State University and Ph.D. in history from Louisiana State University.

She is professor of history at Louisiana College in Pineville. She has written several books, including *Hey Mom!*, *Mom You Gotta Be Kiddin'*, and *Love, Honor and ?*. Her address at BMC will be presented at 10 a.m. in the Modena Lowery Berry Auditorium.

Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "There is no friend like an old friend who has shared our morning days, no greeting like his welcome, no homage like his praise."

Flag Chapel Church, Jackson, has enlarged its auditorium; new pews are to be added. The 200 goal set for Sunday School on Oct. 2 was met. During the church year (Oct. '87-Oct. '88), four have surrendered to the ministry. During the year, the church has had 80 additions, 53 baptisms, 40 by letter, and six by statement. During the Bible Conference, six made professions of faith in Christ, and two joined the church by letter, reports Eddie L. McMahan, church historian. Dexter Truesdell is the pastor.

Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, observed its fortieth anniversary on Sept. 18. Two young men who entered the ministry at Beacon Street were guest speakers.

William Tucker, pastor of Central Church, Tarrant City, Birmingham, Ala., brought the 11 a.m. message. Following a noon meal in the

## Revival dates

Bethel (Highway 12) Columbus: Nov. 6-11; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; evening services, Mon-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Ray Thomas, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, music evangelist; David Brooks, pastor.

Midway, Jackson: Nov. 6-9; services, Sunday, 10:15 a.m.; Sun-Wed., 7 p.m.; Johnny Brock, Lucedale, evangelist; Bill Wilkinson, Hendersonville, N.C., music; David Wilkinson, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: Nov. 6-9; Jerry Mixon, First Church, Winona, evangelist; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday; noon and 7 p.m. Mon-Wed.; Jimmy Harrington, pastor.

## Staff changes

Ralph Windle is the new pastor of Mt. Zion Church in Lowndes County, effective Oct. 30. He and his wife, Ann, moved from Alabama where he was pastor of churches in Jasper, Scottsboro, Reform Piedmont, and Aliceville. Windle is a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Seminary.

James E. Watts has accepted the pastorate of Branch Church in Scott County. He moved there from Temple Church, Jackson. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New

fellowship hall, Jerry Jones brought the 1:30 p.m. message.

Ten charter members were present. Of these, five are still active in the church. The first Sunday School superintendent was also present, Mrs. E. S. Cole Sr. of Philadelphia.

Henry E. Hight has been pastor for the past 13 years.

Mrs. Desma Kilpatrick is historian.

Midway Church, Jackson, presented a \$6,000 check to Dennis and Ruth McIntire to help pay their expenses to China. Dennis McIntire, minister of music at Midway, is a member of the Centurymen. The Centurymen are now in China and will return Nov. 19. David Wilkinson is pastor.

Clarke College is conducting mission emphasis week, Nov. 1-3. The missionary speakers are Vic and Sharon Johnston from Brazil and Don Dent from Singapore. They are speaking at 11 a.m. each day and will be available for conferences. Missions emphasis week is sponsored by the Clarke College BSU.

Religious education students at Clarke College were honored with a banquet Oct. 6, in the college cafeteria. Guest speaker for the occasion was Earl Kelly, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Other special guests were Hollis and Eunice Bryant. He is with the Cooperative Missions Department — In Service Guidance, MBCB.

This is an annual function held for Clarke ministerial and religious education majors to which Mississippi Baptist leaders are invited in order that the students might become acquainted with these leaders.

## Straight Bayou plans Harvest Day

Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla, will host its 25th Harvest Day, Nov. 6. Worship hour will be at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served. At 1:30 p.m. there will be an "Old Fashioned Hymn Sing."

C. C. Carraway, Canton, will be speaker for morning service and the pastor, Archie Goodwin, will lead the music. Mr. and Mrs. John Searcy from Cary will lead the afternoon music; also some local people will sing.

"Dress in old timey clothes if you choose," said church member, Billie Doris King.

Orleans Seminary. He will preach his first message Nov. 6. He and his wife, will be honored with a covered dish luncheon following the morning services.

James Edwards, Coffeeville, has recently resigned as pastor of Temple Church, Grenada. He is currently available for supply and interim work and may be reached at 675-8508 or Rt. 1, Box 16, Coffeeville, MS 38922.

## Off the Record

Her father asked his prospective son-in-law if he could support a family, and we have to admire the young man's answer — "No, sir, I was only planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to take care of yourselves."

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## Royal Ambassador Week: Nov. 6-12

November 6-12 will be Royal Ambassador Week in the SBC, Mayors of three cities — Greenville, Leland, and Hollandale — have signed proclamations designating it as Royal Ambassador Week in Washington County. RA director, James Kerr, left, and associate RA director, Roy Raddin, for Washington County Baptist Association, peruse one of the proclamations.

Kerr said he encourages pastors and RA leaders to let their boys help in church services during the week by taking up offering, leading in prayer, reading Scriptures, welcoming visitors, or reading the sick list. He said that the Washington County Royal Ambassadors will hold a camp-out Nov. 4 to celebrate RA week, and that all the churches are invited to participate.



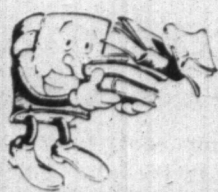
Thrash and Reid

## Russell honors Maude Reid — teacher 62 years

Russell Church, Lauderdale County, recently honored one of its senior citizens with "Maude Reid Day." Mrs. Reid retired from Sunday School teaching after teaching in Russell Church for 62 years. The pastor, Keith Thrash, spoke on the value of her life to the church, and presented her a dozen red roses; a plaque engraved with her favorite scripture verse, and the number of years of service. She was also presented a corsage.

The Maude Reid Class honored her with a luncheon, and presented her a string of pearls.

A bulletin board was prepared by Katie Bragg, with pictures and articles from the church history, depicting the many committees that Mrs. Reid has served on. This was centered around a 15" by 18" pencil drawing of the honoree, sketched by Candace Bragg.



## Book reviews

Jones, Curtis G. 1000 ILLUSTRATIONS FOR PREACHING AND TEACHING. Broadman: Nashville, 1984.

The author is a retired pastor now living in Virginia. Due to the wide range of resources he draws from, it is obvious he is a wide and diligent reader. This book is a compilation of illustrations that were accumulated from years of reading.

The illustrations are organized under a broad range of subject headings. As in most illustration books, some are good and some aren't. Some pastors do not care for illustration books, others do. If you are in the latter category, the book would be a good purchase. Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Church near Meadville.

Kendall, R. T. Tithing: A CALL TO SERIOUS BIBLICAL GIVING. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

The author is pastor of Westminster Chapel, London.

The book is divided into five chapters with titles like "Why Every Christian Should Tithe," "The Origin of Tithing," "The Gospel and the Law," "The Blessing of Tithing," and "Do You Have Any Questions?"

The second chapter deals to a large

degree with the biblical account of Abraham and Melchizedek. The author believes this is the origin of tithing. He presents some interesting insights into this story.

The fifth chapter is a very practical one. It deals with common questions lay people ask such as "Should we tithe the gross or the net?" "What if one cannot afford to tithe?" and many others. The book was first printed in 1982. It is easy to read and would be especially helpful to the laity.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Church, Meadville.

Hester, Dennis J. THE VANCE HAVNER QUOTE BOOK. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986.

The author is currently a Southern Baptist pastor serving in Richmond, Va. He is obviously a fan of the late great preacher, Vance Havner. The book is exactly what the title implies — a book of quotes from one of America's most popular preachers.

The quotes are arranged under each letter of the alphabet, making them easily accessible. If one is a fan of Bro. Havner, he would enjoy the book. Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Church near Meadville.

## Glendale (Alcorn) dedicates education/activities building

Glendale Church dedicated its new education/activities building on Oct. 2. The facility has 6,000 sq. ft. for education space as well as 4,800 sq. ft. activities area.

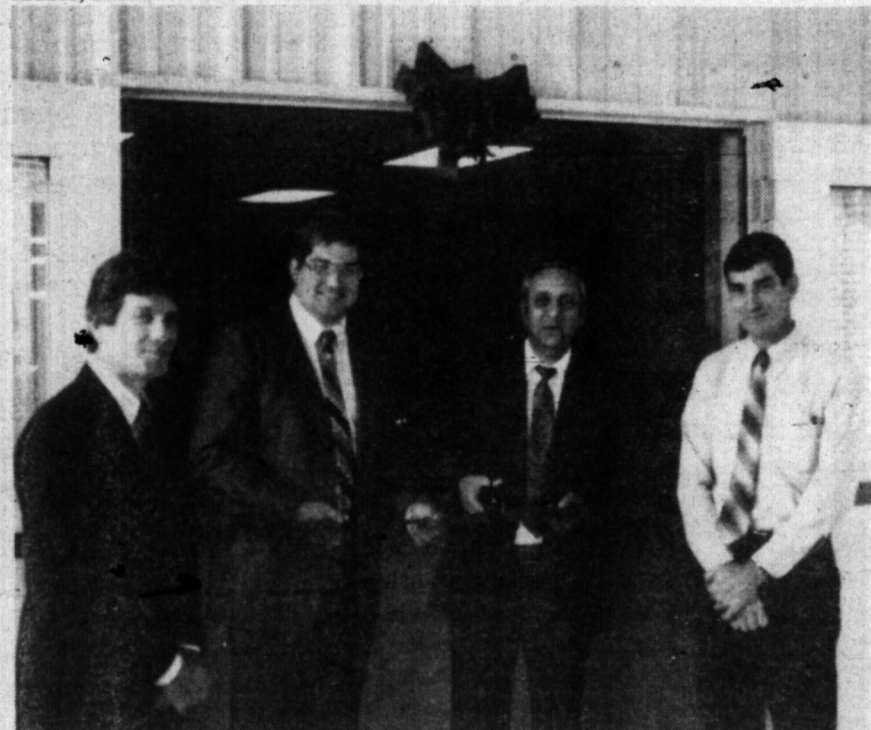
Bob Cossey, pastor, states "The Lord has truly been blessing our fellowship. During the past year-and-a-half we have seen 28 souls saved... and 28 other people have joined our fellowship by profession of faith or promise of letter." The church's Sunday School attendance has doubled in the past year and a-half.

Alan Irvin, minister of youth and music, said that the activities area in

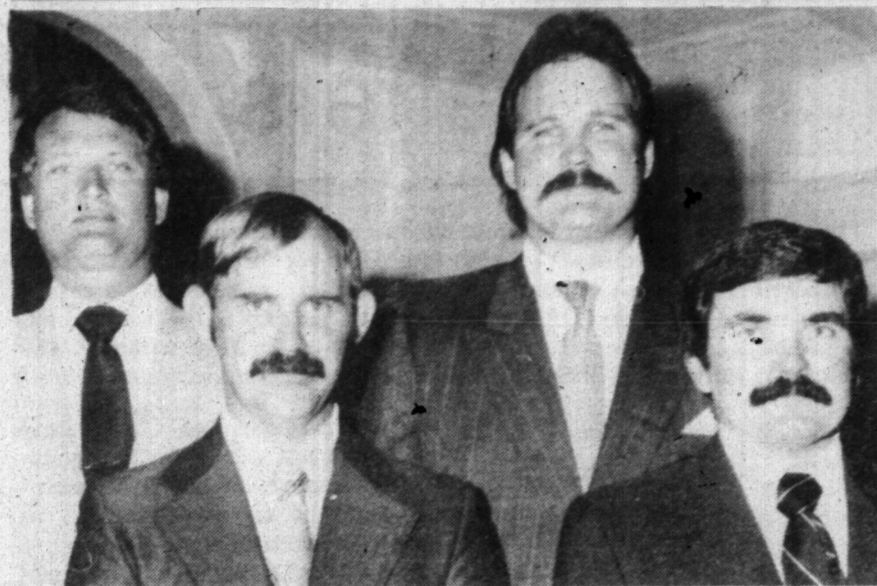
the new building will be an excellent outreach arm of the church. Irvin stated, "Our first youth pizza fellowship was held in the new facility before it was even finished. Over 300 youths from around the entire area attended."

The church participated in the Together We Build campaign to finance the new facility. They already have enough commitments to pay for the building in a three-year period.

Glendale Church is part of the Alcorn County Association. It is located in Glen, on Hwy 72, six miles east of Corinth.



Left to right are Jim Calvary, chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, Alan Irvin, minister of youth and music, and David Graham (far right), chairman of the Building Committee, look on as Bob Cossey, pastor of Glendale Church, cuts the ribbon, officially opening the church's new education/activities building.



Cedar Grove Church, Columbia recently selected four more men to serve as deacons. They are (left to right) George May, David Watts, Raymond May, and Mike Breland. Following their selection, George May, Raymond May, and Mike Breland were ordained to the work of deacon ministry. David Watts had been ordained prior to his selection. LaRue Stephens is pastor.

## Names in the news

Levon Moore of Kosciusko taught the theme book for the Senior Adult Chautauqua at Green Lake, Wisconsin, Oct. 10-14 with 600 senior adults from 18 states attending.

Moore, retired director of missions for Attala Baptist Association, is interim pastor at First Church, Macon.

Anthony B. Piraino, Tupelo, Miss., has earned the Biblical Studies Diploma from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. Piraino is a member of West Heights Church, Pontotoc. Employed as sales manager by Total Reach TV, he completed sixteen courses to receive the Biblical Studies Diploma.

The Independent Study Institute is the correspondence arm of the Seminary Extension Department, SBC.



Russell Church, Meridian, recently ordained Jerry Roberson and Ervin Mooney as deacons. The charge to the church was given by Wayne Lagrone. The charge to the deacons was given by Ronnie Massey.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Nov. 6-12 Royal Ambassador Emphasis Week (BRO/SBC Emphasis)
- Nov. 7 Area Secretaries Conference; Assn. Office, Tupelo; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)
- Nov. 7-8 Church & Community Ministries Conference; Lake Tlak-O'Khata, Louisville; 3 p.m., 7th-3 p.m., 8th (CoMi)
- Nov. 8 Area Secretaries Conference; Immanuel BC, Hattiesburg; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)
- Nov. 12 Disaster Relief Training; Central Hills Retreat; 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (BRO)

## SCRAPBOOK

*Fear not*

Lord, today the road is cloudy  
as my sorrows hide the way.  
I find that I am stumbling  
as I walk toward You today.

Somehow the path seems covered  
and is difficult to see.  
Where did these clouds all come from  
that never used to be?

How swiftly they move in  
and expertly cloud the way.  
Yet, even the darkest of them all  
is used by You today.

For just when I am fearful  
of the darkness that I find,  
I hear Your loving voice —  
"Fear not, for you are Mine."

"Fear not, for I am here.  
I will be your light today.  
Put your hand in Mine and  
I will safely lead the way."

"Put your hand in Mine,  
but remember these words, too:  
when you find the road's too difficult  
My arms will carry you."

"There is nothing I can't do —  
only trust and you shall see.  
Fear not, My precious child,  
do you not belong to me?"  
— Denise Keahey

# Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the BAPTIST RECORD. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

## "We need Clarke"

Editor:

Some observations regarding Clarke College:

1. One of many reasons we need Clarke College is that some of our young people need a smaller college environment where they can receive personal attention and encouragement. There are some who will not get started in Christian higher education if a school like Clarke is not available.

2. Much has been made of the small enrollment at Clarke. We hear statements like, "The school simply does not enroll enough students to allow its continued existence." The fault here lies with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, not with Clarke College. Because of the 1983 decision which began the systematic withdrawal of funds from the college, we have put Clarke in an impossible situation. If you were a high school graduate trying to choose a college, would you be likely to enroll in one that might close in the next year or one that might lose its accreditation because of inadequate financing?

We need Clarke College. Big is not necessarily better.

Glenn Davis, pastor  
First Church, Sumrall

## Attend a seminar

Editor:

Concerning the article in the Oct. 6 issue entitled "Getting Married? Talk Things Over First," I congratulate Terri Lackey on a well written and informative article.

I believe a great majority of our Baptist young people, and people of all ages, who seek "Premarital Counseling" go to their pastor, where the penetrating questions referred to throughout the article are not dealt with. Also, those coming for counseling, whether in love or in caloric attack, already have their minds made up!

I believe if more pastors would send the couple to a professional, or at least attend a seminar or read a book, which would help direct the interview(s), that perhaps we would see less divorces among Southern Baptists.

I know of several churches where the number of divorces are exceeding the number of baptisms. Obviously, this is an area where we need to give more-serious attention!

Allan E. Rankin  
Mendenhall

## Adult decisions

Editor:

In Steve Odom's Sunday School lesson commentary, "The gospel compels us to serve — now," he stated that we should hardly expect children to be making adult decisions about their faith.

I beg to disagree! I was nine years

old when I accepted Christ; and although I was a child, my life changed from a somewhat hostile little tomboy to a more loving little girl. I requested a leather-bound Bible for my 10th birthday. In the meantime I won a dollar at the "dime store" for collecting the most money selling yellow poppies for the blind. With my dollar I bought a baseball bat and a ball and a Bible. The Bible cost 25 cents. I began to read the Bible every day — 10 verses a day. I still have the Bible my daddy gave me on my 10th birthday. I have worn several leather covers off in the last 50 years, but I don't believe my decisions have been any more adult than they were when I was nine years old.

During the years that followed — while I was still a child — I made a decision to become a missionary. That decision has never changed. I still want to be a missionary, and the opportunity to serve in Hawaii about nine years ago with a group of WMU women as a mini-missionary was an answer to prayer. I still feel that every Christian is a missionary with opportunities for service because we all have friends, neighbors, or loved ones who are lost and need a savior.

Yes, my life changed when I became a Christian. I am grateful that Christ became my savior at an early age and saved me from the pain I have seen others suffer because they were lost.

Carolyn Jones  
Greenwood

I believe it needs to be noted that Steve Odom pointed out in his commentary that he was nine years of age also when he accepted Christ. He says that he realizes that his decision as a nine year old was not an adult decision, but he also realizes that the Lord can deal with a person of any age on the level where he is at the time. — Editor

## Indian language?

Editor:

One time I was riding in a car with a friend. He flipped through the radio dial until he found a channel that carried preaching. We rode along quietly for a few minutes until suddenly my friend changed to another station. When I gave him a puzzled look, he said, "Martha, we've been listening to that preacher for five minutes, and not once has he said the name, 'Jesus Christ.' If they don't talk about Jesus, they are not talking about what we believe in."

This incident came to my mind as I read in the (Sept. 29) Baptist Record about the new Sunday School material for the American Indian. It disturbs me that this material referred to "the mender of hearts" and "the Great Chief."

The Indian children I teach and the Indian adults I work with do not use terms such as "the mender of hearts." They speak of God and Jesus Christ just as we do. Some of the adults

(Choctaw) I talked with said they had never heard these terms used before.

I believe this new literature should speak of Jesus Christ and God. This would be a more clear interpretation of the Holy Bible.

Martha Beavers  
Carthage

Agreed. — Editor

## Not "conservative" related

Editor:

I am writing in reference to your editorial, "Trauma at William Carey," in the October 13, 1988, Baptist Record. You are to be commended for your insight in stating that the vote to not extend Dr. Noonkester's contract was not likely related to a conservative effort to control the Southern Baptist Convention. I personally know Dr. Billy McKay, William Carey board chairman, to be a very fine, dedicated servant of God. Billy is a man of high integrity, fairness, and consideration. He is not a man who would chair a meeting that dealt with any matter of business in an unfair manner. He certainly is not a man who would be a party to the mistreatment of a fellow Christian servant. You can be assured that the actions of the board at William Carey were above board and were related to administrative problems at the college.

Jim Bell,  
Pasadena, Texas

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# Homecomings

**Macedonia Church, Suqualena:** Nov. 13; special speaker for morning worship hour; Terry Plummer of Meridian; dinner in the fellowship hall, to be followed by a gospel singing, featuring a group called Born Again; special drive will be emphasized to pay off church building indebtedness; Danny Moss, pastor.

**Cherry Creek, Ecu:** Nov. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., former pastors, H. G. West and Robert Deline, messages; services will conclude for the day after noon meal; Lyndle Davis, pastor.

**Bethel (Highway 12) Columbus:** Nov. 6; 36th year; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Billy Ray Thomas, guest speaker; Reggie Bridges, music; covered dish dinner on the grounds following morning worship service; David Brooks, pastor.

**First, Coffeetown (Yalobusha):** Nov. 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; noon meal will be served in fellowship hall following worship service; former pastor, Donnie L. Stewart, First Church, Holly Springs, guest speaker; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

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# Jeremiah responds to God's call — not an easy task

By Robert Earl Shirley  
Jeremiah 1

The call that came to Jeremiah to prophesy differed sharply from that of Isaiah where there was a vision of heavenly beings and much fanfare. Here the Word of the Lord simply appeared and spoke as though communing with an old and familiar friend. We are not given further details, but it is obvious that the call was a supernatural appearance and not one of his own choosing. Although God declared that he had chosen the young man even before his birth for this prophetic task, it is apparent that the modest, unassuming Jeremiah was totally shocked when the call came.



Shirley

The word, "sanctified," used here in verse 5 means "set aside for a definite purpose" while "ordained" suggests that, by his grace, God had laid his hands upon him in a special way. This does not mean that Jeremiah had no choice as to what he would do with his life, but if he had

refused, he would have missed his destiny. Each individual must not only seek to discover what God's plan is for him personally but must also decide if he will fulfill that purpose.

The young prophet's reluctance to serve does not seem to have been a lack of dedication but an honest feeling that he was not yet prepared for doing the job that had been appointed for him to do. The long ministry that was to ensue indicates that his protest of youthfulness and immaturity at the time was a sincere one. A recent survey has revealed that one of the greatest fears of adults today is that of speaking before a crowd.

One who is currently hesitating to witness for Christ might well hear God's refusal to accept this as an excuse from Jeremiah. Instead, God promised to be with his prophet as he served and to give him his message as he spoke. This dialogue is given not merely to do away with two unacceptable alibis but to show that God has a mission for each of us and encourage us

to respond when our call comes to a place of service.

## UNIFORM

The young prophet's task was not to be an easy one and certainly not one that he would have suggested for himself. His ministry would involve both the judgment of people in high places and restoration as well. Knowing that this dangerous situation might cause further hesitation, God promised, "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee." Today, he does not promise us an easy life or one free from trouble. He does assure us, though, that he will be with us every step of the way.

Two visions were given to the prophet to give surety of the divine promises. The first was a twig of an apparently dormant almond tree about to burst forth in blooms. It might appear that God was asleep or aloof from world conditions, but he was awake and ready to move at any moment to right the wrongs of the world. Jeremiah could count on God to be true to his word and stand behind his messenger. One in any generation does not need to hesitate to step out in faith.

The second vision was of a seething cauldron

facing away from the north ready to boil over toward Palestine. The message was that the armies in that direction were preparing to move against Jerusalem in the immediate future. The fury that had raged among the nations there was about to spill over upon Jerusalem and Judea. Judgment would soon fall upon city and nation because of their constant rebellion against God.

Thus Jeremiah was to see and proclaim God's hand moving in history to accomplish his will and purpose. His task was to warn the people before it was too late. Such a message would not be popular, but God commanded his spokesman to gird up his loins, arise, and speak the message that Jehovah had given him. Kings, princes, priests, and the people of the land would all oppose him, but they would be unable to prevail for God would be with him. They might not respond to his message, but they could not still his voice. Doing God's will always requires fortitude, and the temptation to back down in one's resolve will always be present. The life of Jeremiah testifies to each of us that we need not be afraid.

Shirley is pastor emeritus, Parkway, Tupelo.

# Sharing the gospel is not reserved for the "experts"

Steve Odom

Acts 18:1-4, 18-19; Romans 16:3-5a;  
I Corinthians 16:19

There is one thing of which Paul the Apostle could never be accused, and that is being a one-man gospel show. It seems from his introduction into the Christian faith all the way to the end of his ministry he was enlisting partners to share with him in the proclamation of the gospel. Of course, at the beginning of his Christian journey there were persons who were sent to Paul for encouragement. Remember the disciple at Damascus named Ananias who came to a blind Saul and was instrumental in his recovery of sight. Remember when the newly converted Saul went to Jerusalem and attempted to join the disciples there. The Jerusalem disciples were afraid of him and did not believe that he was a follower of Christ. Then Barnabas stepped in and became a partner to him, a partner who would travel extensively with Paul proclaiming the gospel.



Odom

It appears that the example of partnership which Paul encountered in Ananias and Barnabas became, for Paul, an indispensable part of his own ministry of proclamation. A casual recollection of Paul's partners in the gospel brings to mind such people as Timothy, Epaphroditus, Onesimus, Titus, Silvanus, Tychicus and Phoebe. There were two people who became Paul's partners toward the end of his second missionary journey, a wife and husband who are second only to Timothy in references to ministry with Paul. After Paul left Athens, site of his famous Areopagus speech, he traveled about 80 miles west to Corinth where he found a fellow Jew named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla (Acts 18:1-2). Priscilla and Aquila were companions of Paul in Corinth and in Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19).

## LIFE AND WORK

Aquila and Priscilla were not Corinthian natives. They had come to Corinth from Rome. Aquila is said to have been a native of Pontus, which was an Asian province. Nothing is known of Priscilla's background. Since they both came to Corinth from Rome and both their names are

Latin, we may be able to assume some Roman connections. They must have come to Corinth from Rome as a result of an edict of Claudius in A.D. 49 which banished all Jews from Rome (Acts 18:2).

Paul wasted no time in getting over to see Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth. Paul had two things in common with these Christian friends: one, they were all three bearers of God's good news in Christ, and two, they were all three tent-makers. Paul was carrying on the tradition of which he was a product, the tradition of spreading the gospel through partnership with fellow Christians. So strong was the partnership between Paul and these two companions, that Paul reminded the Roman Christians of Aquila's and Priscilla's risking their own safety for Paul's life (Romans 16:3-4). So strong was Aquila's and Priscilla's influence, that they had a church meeting in their house (I Corinthians 16:19).

There are at least two important lessons we can learn from Paul's relationship with Priscilla and Aquila. First, the gospel mandate to share God's good news of love will not be fulfilled by the efforts of any one person alone. And we may even extend that truth to any one

denomination alone. We are called to share the gospel in partnership with fellow Christians in our own denomination and denominations around the world. The Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention is a tremendous sign of our desire for partnership in sharing the gospel. We do together what no one of us could ever do alone. And we recognize that our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations are our partners as well.

Second, sharing the gospel is not reserved for the "experts." Everywhere Paul went he enlisted partners in the gospel, people who were willing to share with others what God's good news in Christ meant to them. From tent-makers to housebuilders, from pastors to executives, from teachers to students, if we have accepted the gospel of Christ, we must join with those around us to tell it out with gladness. Sharing the gospel is not somebody's responsibility; it is everybody's responsibility. The only requirement for being an evangelist is a personal relationship with God in Christ. After that, we join all our brothers and sisters in faith in sharing the gospel together.

Odom is pastor, University Church, Hattiesburg.

# God provides for Israelites in the wilderness

By Frank H. Thomas, Jr.  
Exodus 15:22-17:7

The passage under consideration for this week may be called "The Wilderness Narrative." After the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites spent time in the wilderness before their arrival at Mount Sinai and the reception of the commandments. The central theme in this passage is what we might call the providence of God or the preservation of Israel through God's leadership. In this case the preservation accomplished by God



Thomas

was due to a series of wonders or miracles associated with three needs: Thirst, hunger, and depression or despair. The passage may be said to contain three major sections, each beginning with the verb translated "to set out on a journey." These three sections begin with 15:22, 16:1, and 17:1. These sections may be identified with the encampment at Marah and Elim, the wilderness of Sin, and Rephidim.

The first of these was the experience of the people at Marah. The name of the place comes from the adjective mar, which means bitter. The people in the wilderness were thirsty, and they began to murmur against Moses and God.

Moses and Aaron were dealing not just with some unhappy people, but they were having to quell something near to a rebellion. Moses went to the Lord in prayer about the problem. He was instructed to take a tree and throw it into the water. The water, which had been bitter, became sweet. It became palatable for the people to drink. The Lord gave the Israelites a statute and an ordinance which if they kept them would result in none of the diseases of the Egyptians coming upon them. The next verse, 15:27, recounts the arrival at Elim where there were 12 springs of water and 70 palm trees.

The second section is in chapter 16. The people set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai. The people began to murmur once again because of their needs not having been met. In this instance, their hunger was a problem. They longed for Egypt where they had had fleshpots and bread satisfactory to keep them from being hungry. Once again Moses went to the Lord and intervened on behalf of the people.

God made two provisions for the people to have food in the wilderness. In the morning after the dew had lifted, there was on the

ground a fine, flakelike substance such as hoarfrost. When the people saw it, they asked each other, "What is it?" The Hebrew words for the question, "What is it?" may be transliterated as *man hu*; you can see how that would have been corrupted into the form of manna. Therefore, the name of the flaky substance was manna.

God's instructions to the people were that for five days they were to gather in the morning only enough manna for their needs that day. They were not to gather any to put aside. On the sixth day, they could lay aside for two days so that they would not have to lay aside manna on the Sabbath itself. On the Sabbath day, the extra manna which they had laid aside would not spoil but would be available for them to eat.

The other portion of food which God gave the people to eat was referred to as flesh or as quail. The quails would be on the ground in the evening, whereas the manna was on the ground in the morning. Between the manna and the quail, and the water which was available to them in the wilderness of Sin, the Israelites managed to maintain some nourishment of life as they advanced toward their meeting with God. Those who followed God's instructions about gathering the manna during the week and also for the seventh day did well and also had their needs met.

Those who did not do as he said found that they had problems. Those who followed God's instructions about the quail had flesh to eat. God's provision for his people was miraculous and welcome in every way. Israel remembered the miracle of the manna and the quails during the years to come.

The next portion begins in Chapter 17. Again the people went out from the wilderness of Sin and camped at Rephidim. Again there was no water for them to drink. They were rebellious to the point of stoning Moses to death. He cried unto the Lord to help him relieve the frustration of God's people. This time, God instructed Moses to stand on the rock at Horeb and strike it. When he struck it, water would come out of it so that the people might drink.

Moses followed these instructions of the Lord, and he called the name of this place Massah and Meribah, because of the faultfinding done by Israel and because of their putting the Lord to the proof by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" All of us can identify with this passage in that we have needs which seem not to be met. We go to the Lord with these needs and pray that he will meet them. Just as God promised to meet the needs of his people in his own way, so he also promises to meet our needs in his way. Our task is to be open to his way.

Thomas is pastor, Alta Woods, Jackson.

## BIBLE BOOK

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Pen Pal Club

Anyone, ages 6 through 12, who wishes to meet a Pen Pal through the Baptist Record may do that by sending name, address, age, and name of church. Names will be listed monthly on the Children's Page.

Dear Baptist Record:

Hi! I would like to be a part of the Pen Pal Club. My name is Melissa McLeod. My address is #50 Trailwood Circle, Petal, MS 39465. My age is 12. My hobbies are going to school, going hunting and fishing, riding bikes, reading my Bible, swimming, talking on the telephone, and the out-doors. I go to Lynn Ray Road Baptist Church.

Sincerely,  
Melissa

The following letters are from the fourth grade Sunday School class at Highland Baptist Church in Laurel.

My name is Carrie Lynn Hartzog. My address is Rt. 11, Box 337, Laurel, MS 39440. My church is Highland Baptist Church. My favorite sport is kickball.

Your Kindness,  
Carrie

My name is Tiffany Jones. My address is 406 Pine Street, Ellisville, MS 39437. My age is 9 years old. I go to Highland Baptist Church. I like to go to Sunday School.

Your friend,  
Tiffany

My name is Kimberly Zahn. I am 9 years of age. My address is: 912 Choctaw Dr., Laurel, MS 39440. I go to Highland Baptist Church. I like to twirl and I also like to read. I like to collect dolls and I also like to play with my dog.

Your friend,  
Kimberly

My name is Christopher Barron. I am 9 years old. My address is Rt. 12, Box 110, Laurel, MS, 39440. I like to play basketball, baseball, football, and playing the Nintendo. My church is Highland Baptist Church.

Your Pal,  
Christopher

My name is Trey Rayburn. I am 9 years old. My address is 908 Choctaw Dr., Laurel, MS 39440. My church is Highland Baptist Church. My favorite hobbies are baseball, football, bowling, Sunday School.

Your friend,  
Trey

My name is Michael Terry. I am nine years old. I live at 746 Nth 4th Ave., Laurel, MS 39440. My church is Highland Baptist Church. I like Baseball and Baseball Card and Basketballs all right and Nintendo and bowling.

Your friend,  
Michael

My name is Bryan Wall. My age is 9. My address is Rt. 12, Box 350, Laurel, MS 39440. My Church is Highland Baptist Church. My favorite things are baseball and football.

Your friend,  
Bryan

My name is Chenae Dawn Johnson. 9 years of age. My address is 912 Rt. 1, Box 344, Soso MS 39480. I go to church at Highland Baptist Church. I like to do these things: play school, cheer, play with my brother, and stay with my friends.

Your friend,  
Chenae

My name is Brad Rowland. I am 9 years old. My address is Rt. 3, Box 70 AAA, Laurel, MS 39440. I go to Highland Baptist Church. My favorites are football, baseball, basketball, and playing the nintendo.

Your friend,  
Brad

Hello. My name is Lacey Moore. I am 9 years old. My address is Rt. 7, Box 1125, Laurel, MS, zip code is 39440. I go to Highland Baptist Church. I like swimming, I like to also ride my bike, and music boxes.

Your friend,  
Lacey

My name is Ryan Smith. I am 10 years old. My address is 4420 Forrest Drive, Laurel, MS-39440. I go to Highland Baptist Church. My favorite things are football, basketball, baseball and playing the nintendo.

Your friend,  
Ryan

## A piece of bark talks

By Lucille W. Bailey

Have you ever felt that the bark on the tree was talking to you as you passed by? All week long a certain tree in our yard seemed like it was staring at me, so one time I stopped and said, "Mr. Bark, if you have anything to say to me, I want you to say it now." Now we know that the bark on a tree can't talk, but it seemed that I could hear the bark say, "Look at me and you will see a sermon." I stood there looking at the bark on that large oak tree and I thought I heard the bark say . . .

"There are three layers in me and that should remind you of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call that the triune God, and it is important that you remember this.

"Bark comes in many colors. For instance, you will find red, yellow, black, white, and brown bark on various trees. This should remind you that God loves everyone. It does not matter what color the skin of a person is. God loves that person and Jesus died on the cross to save that person just like he did for us. If God loves those people whose skin is a different color than ours, shouldn't we love them, too?

"Still another lesson you should learn is that my bark is broken. The reason is that I have been growing and the tree has been growing faster, so I had to make room for the growth of the tree. That reminds me that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. You should grow by reading your Bible, praying, attending Sunday School and church, and by telling others about Jesus.

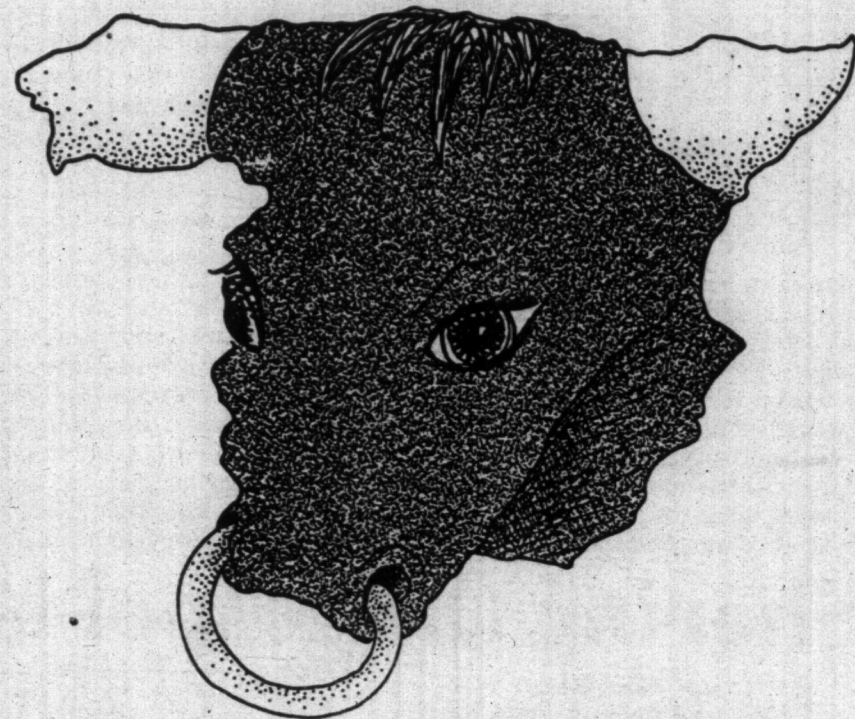
"But wait a minute, there are insects that want to destroy me, as well as my friends. For instance, there are 300 enemies of the bark of an apple tree. The person who works to kill the enemies has found that by wrapping a certain kind of cloth around the tree that the insects will crawl into the cloth and when it is full the person removes the cloth and burns it, killing all the insects. Now that tells me that Jesus does exactly the same thing when he forgives us of our sins, and he never remembers them again."

I started to walk away, but the bark on that tree wasn't through talking. Finally the tree pointed out to me how important and useful the bark was. The bark was happy to point out that shingles, canoes, cardboard, baskets, clothing, food, medicine, dye, shoe soles, cinnamon, belts, and paper were just a few ways that bark is used in today's world. As I walked away I thought I heard the bark say, "Go have yourself a cup of sassafras tea and think about what you can do for Christ that would make you useful in his kingdom."

Mrs. Bailey is a member of First Baptist Church, State Line, where she works in children's church.

## GEOGRAFUN: Map Of Spain Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



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## Map Of Spain



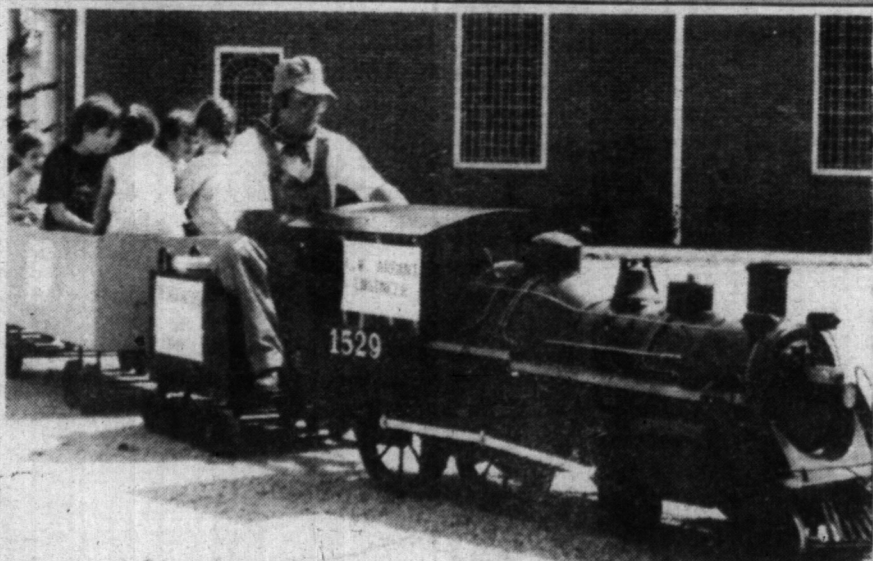
Bullfighting is popular in Spain. Can you imagine the picture of a bull in this map? Color the picture.



The Children of Russell Church, Meridian, presented the musical, "We Like Sheep," by Kathie Hill. Thirty four children from preschool through 6th grade participated. The program was presented on two separate nights with over 400 people in attendance. The musical was directed by Lisa Greer, the wife of the minister of music and youth, Jewell Greer.

The Children's Choir of New Hope Church, Tupelo (Lee County), presented their summer musical, "God With a Capital G," in August. The musical drama is based on 1 Kings 18 when Elijah challenged King Ahab and the Baal prophets to a contest. Jehovah God triumphed and everyone found out who was the one true God.

Directors of the choir are Patty Simmons and Connie Young. Members of the Children's Choir of New Hope Church, Lee, are Michael Bradley, Joel Ingram, Ron Bradley, Allen Conner, Randy Hall, Teddy Toney, Jeremy Kelly, Justin Lamb, Robbie Blythe, Michael Upton, Amy Toney, Kelly Blythe, Veronica Kincaide, Carrie Christian, Brooke Timmons, Stephanie Bradley, and Jason Parker.



## "Get on the right track!"

The Children's Choir of Meadowood Church, Amory, had a Promotion Day Party on Sept. 10. The children had a fun ride on the "Meadowood Express." The engineer was Wayne Arrant. Minister of music is Billy W. Bowie. "Get on the RIGHT TRACK — join a choir!" was the theme.

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